



IIDP DATA RESOURCE TRAINEE SCHOLAR AWARD (DRTSA)



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Section I. Funding Opportunity Purpose

The Integrated Islet Distribution Program (IIDP) announces a new funding initiative, the **2025 IIDP Data Resource - Trainee Scholar Award (DRTSA)**, that is intended to advance research in human pancreas biology and islet research by providing trainees with support and access to detailed donor and islet data contained within the IIDP's Research Data Repository (RDR) that will enable important secondary analyses to explore the relationships among donor characteristics, islet phenotyping, and genetic risk.

I-1 Key Dates:

Posted Date:	November 18, 2024
Informational Webinars:	1) December 6, 2024 at 12:00 PM Pacific (click here to register). 2) Additionally, the IIDP will be presenting the RDR and describing the available data as part of dkNET's webinar series on November 22, 2024 at 11 AM Pacific. Click here for more information: https://dknet.org/about/webinar .
Letter of Intent:	January 13, 2025 (courtesy only)
Application Due Date:	February 14, 2025
Scientific Review:	6-8 weeks post receipt
Start Date:	Approvals announced by April 2025 with funding anticipated by May 2025

Section II. Funding Opportunity Description

II-1 Award Objectives and Scope:

Studies supported by these awards should focus on key questions in diabetes research. IIDP data, including detailed donor, islet isolation, post-shipment phenotyping, and genetic risk data will be made available to award recipients via the IIDP's RDR. A comprehensive list of data points available via the RDR can be viewed here: <https://iidp.coh.org/Resources-Offered/Research-Data-Repository>. An informational webinar will be held by the IIDP to help orient potential applicants to the IIDP and its data holdings (December 6, 2024 at 12:00 PM Pacific, click [here](#) to register).

Upon conclusion of the project, all award recipients will provide a Final Progress Report to the IIDP including a summary of analytic results, the impact on diabetes research, and feedback on the design and functionality of the RDR to assist the IIDP in improving the RDR's future functionality and utility.

IIDP encourages all applicants to consider how sex as a biological variable may be factored into research designs and analyses, and it supports the use of unbiased and well-controlled experimental designs, methodologies, analyses, interpretation and reporting of results to ensure adequate rigor and reproducibility in research.

Section III. Award Information

Funding Instrument:	Subcontract, awarded from the IIDP-Coordinating Center
Funds Available:	IIDP intends to commit approximately \$50,000 in 2025 to fund up to 5 awards.
Award Budget:	Awards are limited to \$10,000 including any applicable F&A costs.
Project Period:	The maximum project period is 12 months.

Final payment will be issued to Subrecipient upon IIDP receipt and approval of the output of this award: the Final Progress Report to the IIDP summarizing the analytic results, the impact on diabetes research, and feedback on the design and functionality of the RDR to assist the IIDP in improving the RDR's future functionality and utility.

Section IV. Eligibility Information

IV-1. Eligible Applicants

Private Institutions of Higher Education

Researchers from the following types of Higher Education Institutions are encouraged to apply for support as Public or Private Institutions of Higher Education:

- Hispanic-serving Institutions
- Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)
- Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities (TCCUs)
- Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions
- Asian American Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions (AANAPISIs)

Nonprofits Other Than Institutions of Higher Education

- Nonprofits with 501(c)(3) IRS Status (Other than Institutions of Higher Education)
- Nonprofits without 501(c)(3) IRS Status (Other than Institutions of Higher Education)

For-Profit Organizations

- Small Businesses/For-Profit Organizations (Other than Small Businesses)

Foreign Institutions

- Non-domestic (non-U. S.) Entities (Foreign Institutions) **are NOT** eligible to apply.
- Non-domestic (non-U. S.) components of U.S. Organizations **are NOT** eligible to apply.
- Foreign components, as defined in the [NIH Grants Policy Statement](#), **are NOT** allowed.

IV-2. Required Registrations

None

IV-3. Additional Information on Eligibility

Number of Applications: Applicant organizations may submit more than one application, provided that each application is scientifically distinct and is submitted by a different individual.

IV-4. Eligible Individuals

IV-4.1 Requirements for applicants applying to this FOA include:

- Individuals must currently be in a mentored predoctoral or postdoctoral trainee position.
 - **Postdoctoral Fellows:** Candidates must hold a Ph.D., M.D., M.D./Ph.D, or equivalent degree signifying comparable research experience to the Ph.D, M.D., or M.D./Ph.D.
 - **Graduate / Medical Students:** The candidate must be currently enrolled in an M.S., Ph.D., M.D. or equivalent degree program (e.g., EngD, DNSc, DrPH, DSW, PharmD, ScD) in the biomedical, behavioral, or clinical sciences at a U.S. domestic institution. Graduate student candidates for the DRTSA must be at the thesis / dissertation research stage of training at the time of award and must show evidence of high academic performance in the sciences.

- Candidates must obtain an Open Research and Contributor ID ([ORCID](#)).
- Individuals from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups as well as individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply.
- There is no citizenship requirement for the applicant. Applicant may be a citizen or a non-citizen national of the United States, been lawfully admitted for permanent residence (i.e., possess a currently valid Permanent Resident Card USCIS Form I-551, or other legal verification of such status).
- Investigators are eligible to receive only one award under this initiative.

IV-4.2 Mentorship

The candidate must designate a mentor who will supervise activities to be pursued under this award. The mentor should be an active investigator in the area of the proposed research and be committed both to the career development of the candidate and to the direct supervision of the candidate's activities. The mentor's statement (described in the Appendix) must document the availability of sufficient support and facilities to ensure success of the candidate's proposal. The candidate must work with the mentor in preparing the application. The mentor should have a successful track record of mentoring individuals at the candidate's career stage.

Section V. Application and Submission Information

V-1. Content and Form of Application Submission

- **Application Forms:** It is critical that applicants follow the instructions in the DRTSA Application. Conformance to the requirements in the application is required and will be strictly enforced. Applications that are out of compliance with these instructions may be returned without review.
- **Letter of Intent:** A letter of intent (LOI) is not required, it is not binding, and does not enter into the review of a subsequent application. However, the information provided in the LOI allows IIDP staff to estimate the potential review workload and plan the review. By the due date listed above, prospective applicants are asked to submit a letter of intent that includes the following information:
 - ❖ Descriptive title of proposed activity
 - ❖ Name, address and telephone number of the applicant
 - ❖ Participating institution
 - ❖ Names of other key personnel
 - ❖ One sentence description summary of the project aims and/or goals

The letter of intent should be sent in electronic form to James Cravens, IIDP Program Manager:

To: jcravens@coh.org

Subject line: 2025 IIDP Data Resource Trainee Scholar Award

V-2. Instructions for Application Submission

Applications will be completed via a Recap webform. Click [here](#) to start an application. Should you need to save your application and return later to complete it, click on "Save & Return Later", and record the unique return code that is provided.

All application components are expected to adhere to NIH formatting principles described [here](#) unless a specific NIH form page template is noted below.

V-2.1 Title

The title should be short and descriptive of the proposed research. Maximum space limit is 90 characters, including spaces.

V-2.2 Abstract

The abstract should be a self-contained description of the project. It should contain information about the significance, broad objectives, hypotheses, specific aims, and methods to be employed. There should be a statement describing how the project will advance the understanding of diabetes etiology, prevention, and/or therapy. All abstracts for funded applications may be made available through the IIDP public website. The maximum length is 500 words.

V-2.3 Key Personnel/Biosketches (form pages)

Provide biosketches for the applicant and Mentor. Biosketches should be presented in a format that adheres to current NIH template guidelines (<https://grants.nih.gov/grants-process/write-application/forms-directory/non-fellowship-biographical-sketch-format>).

V-2.4 Facilities and Other Resources

Provide information to verify that the environment provides the organizational and research resources that will be required to perform the study as designed.

V-2.5 Budget and Justification (form pages)

Present and justify expenses required to achieve project aims and objectives. Special forms are provided for the budget and justification (<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/fp4.pdf>).

Use the Budget Justification to provide the additional information requested in each budget category and any other information to submit in support of the budget request. If you have a quote(s), you may include it here. The following budget categories must be justified, where applicable: equipment, travel, participant/trainee support, and other direct cost categories.

Also use the Budget Justification to explain any exclusions applied to the F&A base calculation.

If your application includes a subaward/consortium budget, a separate Budget Justification must be submitted. See [G.310 - R&R Subaward Budget Attachment\(s\) Form](#).

V-2.6 Specific Aims

Describe concisely and realistically the goals of the proposed study, specific objectives and hypotheses to be tested, summarize expected outcomes, and describe potential impact of findings on etiology, prevention, and/or therapy of diabetes. The maximum length is 500 words.

V-2.7 Research Strategy

The research plan should conform to the following instructions with careful attention to use of the headers and word limits outlined below:

Project Summary (no longer than 30 lines of text): succinctly describe the significance, objectives, and methods to be employed.

Significance (500 word limit): Explain the importance of the problem or critical barrier to progress that is being addressed. Describe how your objectives and research design will advance research in pancreas biology and/or diabetes research.

Innovation (500 word limit): Summarize clearly and concisely how your project demonstrates novel statistical or computational methodology.

Approach (File upload, 3 page limit, including figures and tables. Citations will not be included in the page limit): Number the sections in this part of the application to correspond to the numbers of the Specific Aims. This section should include the following information:

- statement of your hypothesis and outcome to be evaluated;
- type of IIDP RDR data you plan to use;
- description of any publicly accessible datasets that you may plan to combine with the IIDP data;
- overview of the statistical design and analysis plan including a description of methods and analyses to be used to accomplish the aims;
- description of any new statistical methodology or computational algorithms to be developed or utilized;
- discussion of potential data limitations, bias, and/or other analytic challenges and how these will be addressed;
- timeline of how the project will be accomplished and results disseminated via presentations, publications, etc.;

Note: Figures and illustrations may be included in the Research Strategy section but must fit within the page limit. Bibliographic citations are not required but, if included, will NOT be counted towards the page limit.

V-3. Appendix materials

- **Mentor's Statement:** Each application should include a statement from the mentor outlining his/her research qualifications and previous experience as a research supervisor, the nature of the supervision and mentoring that will occur, and a plan for monitoring the awardee's progress toward defined goals.

Section VI. Application Review Information

VI-1. Criteria

Only the review criteria described below will be considered in the review process. Consistent with the IIDP mission, all applications submitted will be evaluated for scientific and technical merit using external peer review.

- **Review Criteria**
Reviewers will consider each of the review criteria below in the determination of scientific merit and give a separate score for each. An application does not need to be strong in all categories to be judged likely to have major scientific impact.
 - ❖ **Significance:** Does the project address an important problem or a critical barrier to progress in the field? Is there a strong scientific premise for the project?

- ❖ **Innovation:** Does the application use novel theoretical concepts, approaches, or methodologies? Alternatively, is a refinement, improvement, or new application of existing theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies proposed?
- ❖ **Approach:** Are the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the research objectives? Has the applicant presented strategies to ensure a robust and unbiased approach, as appropriate for the work proposed? Is rigor and reproducibility of any outcomes adequately considered and described?
- ❖ **Investigator & Mentor:** Does the trainee have a record of academic success and the scientific background and training needed to accomplish aims of the project? Is the mentor recognized as an accomplished investigator in the proposed research area and does the mentor have a track record of success in training postdoctoral fellows or graduate students?
- ❖ **Environment:** Will the scientific environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success? Are the institutional support, equipment, and other physical resources adequate for the project proposed?
- ❖ **Overall Impact:** Reviewers will provide an overall impact score to reflect their assessment of the likelihood for the project to provide important findings that will advance the field of pancreas biology.

VI-2. Review and Selection Process

- Applications will be evaluated for scientific and technical merit by external peer reviewers convened by the IIDP using the stated review criteria. As part of the scientific peer review, all applications:
 - ❖ May undergo a selection process in which only those applications deemed to have the highest scientific and technical merit (generally the top half of applications under review) will be discussed and assigned an overall impact score.
 - ❖ Will receive a written critique.
 - ❖ Appeals of the IIDP peer review **will NOT** be accepted for applications submitted in response to this funding opportunity.
 - ❖ Applications will compete for available funds with all other recommended applications submitted in response to this funding opportunity.
 - ❖ Final funding decisions will be made by IIDP and NIH staff, with consideration of the following:
 - Scientific and technical merit of the proposed project as determined by scientific peer review
 - Availability of funds
 - Relevance of the proposed project to program priorities

VI-3. Anticipated Announcement and Award Dates

After review of the applications is complete, the recipient will be notified as to funding decisions by April 2025 with funding anticipated by May 2025.

Appendix - Application Guide

The following items will be collected as part of the application:

- [Face Page \(form page 1\)](#)
- **Project Abstract**
- [Biographical Sketches](#)

- Facilities and Other Resources
- [Detailed Budget for Initial Budget Period](#)
- [Budget Justification Page](#)
- Specific Aims
- Research Strategy (as detailed in Section V-2.7)
- Supporting Documents:
 - Mentor's Statement

Contact Information:

James Cravens, Program Manager
IIDP - Data Resource Trainee Scholar Award
City of Hope, Duarte, California
Email: jcravens@coh.org

Click [HERE](#) to apply.